

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03692 221642Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /075 W  
-----221658Z 072332 /47

O 221603Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 162  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE  
USDELMC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IMMEDIATE  
DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3692

BRUSSELS FOR DCM HAWTHORNE MILLS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US  
SUB: U.S.- GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: ATHENS 3655 (DTG 221109Z APR 77) (NOTAL)

1. LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA ON APRIL 22 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORY  
HEADLINED "THREE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS HAVE ARRIVED...TALKS ON US  
BASES RESUMED SECRETLY IN ATHENS." TEXT OF STORY, WHICH DEALS PRI-  
MARILY WITH USG ANNOUNCEMENT ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, STRESSES  
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THE "ABSOLUTE SECRECY" AROUND THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND CITES A "STATE  
DEPARTMENT SOURCE" AS ANNOUNCING A NEW ROUND OF TALKS WOULD RESUME  
"IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN  
AGREEMENT."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED TODAY ONLY  
THAT "PERIODIC DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS" ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE

U.S. EMBASSY AND THE MFA ON THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT THE QUESTION OF ANY "EXPERTS" WAS AN INTERNAL U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER.

3. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WILL USE, IF ASKED, ON A BACKGROUND BASIS:

Q- IS IT TRUE, AS REPORTED IN THE GREEK PRESS THIS MORNING, THAT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY ON THE AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE?

A-SINCE THE RECESS IN NEGOTIATIONS LAST OCTOBER THE QUESTION OF U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION HAS CONTINUED TO BE A SUBJECT FOR PERIODIC DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HOWEVER, NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FORMAL BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q-WHAT ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE ARE THREE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS WHO HAVE COME TO ATHENS FOR BASE TALKS?

A-FROM TIME TO TIME, THE EMBASSY ARRANGES FOR TEMPORARY VISITS BY AMERICAN EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS TO ADVISE IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS, INCLUDING TECHNICAL MILITARY TOPICS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE THREE SUCH PERSONS IN ATHENS AT PRESENT.

Q-DO THESE ADVISORS HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT?

A-SUCH TECHNICAL PERSONNEL COME PRIMARILY TO COUNSEL THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY ON OCCASION HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH GREEK OFFICIALS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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